GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:964
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
NATIONAL RAINFED AREA AUTHORITY
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision for States` representation on the newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure representation of farmers and State Governments on the Executive Committee of the Authority?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been constituted as a two tier structure. The first tier is the Governing Board that will provide necessary leadership and appropriate coordination in implementation of programmes in rainfed areas. The Governing Board is chaired by the Union Agriculture Minister and co-chaired by the Union Rural Development Minister. The Union Ministers of Water Resources and Environment & Forests, Member (Agriculture) Planning Commission, Secretaries of Ministries/Departments of Agriculture & Cooperation, Rural Development, Water Resources, Environment & Forests, Panchayati Raj, Chairman of NABARD, One Farmer`s representative/organization and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NRAA are the other members. The second tier is the Executive Committee which is headed by CEO, NRAA. Five eminent Experts in the fields of water management, agriculture/ horticulture, animal husbandry & fisheries, forestry and watershed development, one representative each from Ministries of Rural Development, Agriculture, Environment & Forests, Panchayati Raj and Water Resources, Advisor (Agriculture) Planning Commission, Director of Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) Jodhpur, Director of Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad are other members of the Executive Committee. There is provision for subject matter specialists in the Executive Committee. However, there is no provision for states` representation since the Authority is a policy making and technical knowledge based body and its structure has accordingly been designed. However, the relevant States will be invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee of the NRAA, as and when required, as special invitees.

In so far as the representation of farmers and State Governments on the Executive Committee is concerned, already there is a provision for farmers` representative at the Governing Board level and accordingly a nomination has also been made in the Governing Board. All policy decisions of the Authority are taken by the Governing Board and the Executive Committee basically is the implementing arm.